

This communication is being filed in response to the final Office Action having a mailing date of March 10, 2006. Claims 1-5 are currently pending in the application. For the reasons set forth below, the applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider the rejection of the claims, since it is believed that the references (whether singly or in combination) do not meet the limitations recited in the claims and therefore, it is believed that no further amendments to the claims are needed in order to distinguish over the references.

Specifically, claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Horimai (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0063342) in view of Amble (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0001400). On page 2 of the final Office Action, the Examiner acknowledged or otherwise stated that "Horimai does not teach that a first light source is used to emit the recording beams and a second light source is used to emit the servo beam." To supply these missing teaching(s) of Horimai, the Examiner has cited Amble.

However, it is respectfully submitted that Amble does not cure the deficiencies of Horimai. More particularly, Amble does not disclose, teach, or suggest that his servo beam 104 is used in connection with a holographic recording to record holographic data. Instead, Amble's servo beam 104 is used during writing and readout of his optical medium 86. *See, e.g.*, the last sentence in paragraph [0066] of Amble.

Accordingly, Amble cannot and does not provide at least some of the limitations in claim 1, which recite *inter alia*: "A holographic recording and reproducing method for recording holographic data in and reproducing holographic data from a holographic recording medium ... the holographic recording and reproducing method comprising projecting a light beam for servo control emitted from a second light source and having a wavelength $\lambda 1...$ " Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is allowable over Horimai and Amble, whether singly or in combination.

To further elaborate on Amble, Amble discloses an optical data storage system that employs a signal beam 100A having a wavelength of 532nm, a reference beam 100B having a wavelength of 532nm, a read/write beam 102 having a wavelength of 658nm, and the servo beam 104 having a wavelength of 780nm. *See, e.g.*, Figures 3C-3E of Amble.

In Amble, a format hologram is first recorded by interference of the signal beam 100A and the reference beam 100B within an R/W layer 90 of the optical medium 86. *See, e.g.*, Figure 3C and paragraphs [0064] – [0065] of Amble. The present applicant respectfully notes here for the Examiner that the servo beam 104 is not involved in the recording of Amble's format hologram—only the signal beam 100A and the reference beam 100B are used by Amble to record his format hologram.

Following formation of the format hologram, data is subsequently recorded in the R/W layer 90 by Amble's write beam 102. The servo beam 104 of Amble will track servo layer 94 during writing and readout of the optical medium 86. *See, e.g.*, paragraph [0066] of Amble.

Therefore, it is clear that Amble's servo beam 104 is not involved in recording his format hologram, since his format hologram is already formed during his initial recording process and before the writing/readout of the optical medium 86 by the servo beam 104. Accordingly, the limitations of claim 1 that recite the “holographic recording” method comprising “projecting a light beam for servo control...” are distinctive over Amble (as well as Horimai).

Claim 3 is also allowable over Horimai and Amble, for reasons similar to those explained above. For example, claim 3 recites *inter alia* “A holographic recording method for recording holographic data in a holographic recording medium ... the holographic recording method comprising projecting a light beam for servo control emitted from a second light source and having a wavelength $\lambda 1$ onto the holographic recording medium so as to substantially focus onto the surface on which the optical modulation pattern is formed, thereby generating clock signals in synchronism with the optical modulation pattern, sequentially recording phase information along the track, and shifting a record position along the track every integer multiple of a period of the optical modulation pattern.”

Clearly therefore, the light beam for servo control recited in claim 3 is associated with recording holographic data. As explained above, the servo beam 104 of Amble is not involved with recording his format hologram, and is instead used for writing and readout. Accordingly, claim 3 is allowable.

Claims 4-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Horimai in view of Amble and in further view of Kono (JP Patent No. 2001-291242). For reasons similar to those explained above, it is respectfully submitted that claims 4-5 are allowable over these cited references.

Specifically, claim 4 recites *inter alia* “A holographic reproducing method for reproducing holographic data from a holographic recording medium … the holographic reproducing method comprising projecting a light beam for servo control emitted from a second light source and having a wavelength λ_1 onto the holographic recording medium so as to substantially focus onto the surface on which the optical modulation pattern is formed, thereby generating clock signals in synchronism with the optical modulation pattern, projecting a reference beam onto the holographic recording medium, reproducing an image recorded in the holographic recording medium …”

Because the above limitations are not provided by Amble, specifically since for example Amble’s servo beam 104 is used for writing and readout and not for the format hologram recording process that uses his reference beam 100B, claim 4 is allowable.

Overall, none of the references singly or in any motivated combination disclose, teach, or suggest what is recited in the independent claims. Thus, given the above amendments and accompanying remarks, the independent claims are now in condition for allowance. The dependent claims that depend directly or indirectly on these independent claims are likewise allowable based on at least the same reasons and based on the recitations contained in each dependent claim.

If the undersigned attorney has overlooked a teaching in any of the cited references that is relevant to the allowability of the claims, the Examiner is requested to specifically point out where such teaching may be found. Further, if there are any informalities or questions that can be addressed via telephone, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney at (206) 622-4900.

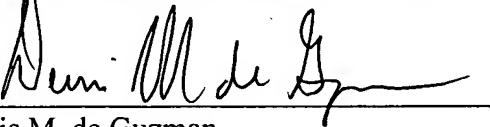
The Director is authorized to charge any additional fees due by way of this Amendment, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-1090.

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All of the claims remaining in the application are now clearly allowable.
Favorable consideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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